

Town of Milton

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECLARATION OF WATER EMERGENCY UPDATE

July 11, 2012, 1 p.m.

The Town of Milton Water Emergency – effective at 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 7, 2012, has been upgraded. A leak in the primary storage tank has warranted an expansion of the current water use restrictions. The tower on Chandler Street is being taken off-line.

No irrigation or “sprinkling” of lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers may occur until further notice.
“Hand watering” shrubs and flowers is allowed.

The expanded restrictions are effective immediately. It is estimated that these restrictions will be effective until Monday morning. Changes to this order will be announced and posted on the website.

A favorable change in the weather and voluntary compliance by Town of Milton residents and businesses has resulted in a dramatic change in the use of water since the restrictions were announced last Friday. Pumping activity has decreased from 19-23 hours per day to 10-12 hours per day. Pumping activity by day follows:

JULY 2012

7/2	7/3	7/4	7/5	7/6	7/7	7/8	7/9	7/10	7/11
501,000	524,000	553,000	483,000	554,000	507,000	494,000	442,000	392,000	431,000

Town of Milton water towers are covered by a maintenance contract. The contract includes annual inspections. The towers are, additionally, inspected by Water Department staff on a monthly basis. A leak can be both heard and observed by stepping into the base compartment. An external drain line connected to the top floor of the tower is also an indicator of a leak from the “bowl” or pipe connection. By all indications, it appears that the leak has been occurring for a day or less.

The weight of water, when this tank is full, is 1.2 million pounds. That amount of weight will place additional stress on the source of the leak. So, the tank is being drained and the leak is being repaired without delay. A crew from our contracted service, Corrosion Control of Pedricktown, NJ, will be on the scene as soon as the tank is drained. Similar repairs in the past took 5-6 hours to complete.

The protocol for putting a tower back “on-line” after such repairs requires that the tank be filled, flushed, filled again and then tested by the Department of Public Health (DPH). This routine and the availability of DPH laboratory services over the weekend will dictate the timing of the use restrictions.

Town of Milton pumps are capable of meeting domestic water supply needs. The tower at Shipbuilders will serve to maintain pressure in the system. The Milton Fire Department has been notified of the situation. Having two-thirds of our storage capacity out of service during a peak demand period makes conservation measures absolutely necessary, though.

It is imperative that citizens and businesses pull together and voluntarily comply with the expanded restrictions during this critical time.